Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JHGLENN:LCB APPROVED BY D:BLPASCOE EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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R 160044Z SEP 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, US, BU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR POPOV'S FAREWELL CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 1. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY COMMENTED ON THE IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS UNDER THE AEGIS OF AMBASSADOR POPOV. POPOV AGREED THAT RELATIONS ARE NOW MUCH BETTER AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THEM.
- 2. AMBASSADOR POPOV ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING NEW ON MFN. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT PROGRESS ON MFN DEPENDS ON US/USSR RELATIONS AND THAT NO IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT IS IN SIGHT
- 3. CHRISTOPHER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS ON CLAIMS OF AMERICAN HOLDERS OF BULGARIAN BONDS MAY BEGIN SOON. POPOV REPLIED THAT THE RECENT POSTPONEMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ISSUE AT GOB REQUEST WAS THE RESULT OF A LACK OF PREPAREDNESS, NOT OF POLICY. HE ADDED THAT IT IS BETTER TO COME PREPARED AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS GOVERNMENT COULD DO SO IN SEVERAL MONTHS. POPOV ADDED THAT HE HOPED THAT HE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL ADVISORS COULD SUGGEST HOW THE TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT THAT ALL CLAIMS HAD BEEN SETTLED. ANDREWS (EUR/

EE) NOTED THAT IT IS A QUESTION OF HOW ONE GOVERNMENT MAKES CLEAR TO ANOTHER THAT NO FURTHER CLAIMS AGAINST IT ARE PENDING. OR, SAID POPOV, THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT NO OTHER CLAIMS.

4. POPOV EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE KINDNESSES OF THE DEPARTMENT AND COMMENTED THAT HE IS LEAVING THE U.S. WITH THE BEST OF IMPRESSIONS. VANCE

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Subject: AMBASSADOR POPOV\'S FAREWELL CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, SEPTEMBER 12

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